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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the trial of the political detainees in Tiraspol.

I should be grateful if you would have circulated the attached Declaration (see annex), as well as the letter addressed to you on 21 May 1993 by His Excellency Mr. Mircea Snegur, the President of the Republic of Moldova, concerning the fate of the political detainees in the part of the country controlled by separatist forces (see appendix), as an official document of the General Assembly under items 114 and 115 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Tudor PANTIRU
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Moldova to the United Nations

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the trial of the political detainees in Tiraspol

Six citizens of the Republic of Moldova - Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Petru Godiac, Andrei Ivantoc, Valentin Garbuz - are being sued in an illegal process in Tiraspol, in the self-proclaimed "republic of Transnistria". They have openly supported the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic of Moldova and have expressed their negative attitude towards the preservation of a procommunist, anti-constitutional regime in the eastern parts of the Republic.

This staged trial resembles a medieval judgement with detainees kept in iron cages and spectators eager to attend a bloody revenge on the heterodoxes. One can see here the methods of terror of Stalin's times. It is shocking just to think that this farce takes place at the end of the twentieth century when mankind is being more and more guided by human principles sanctioned by international laws, which foresee the right of every human being to life, liberty, the inviolability of a person and which forbid an arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

The actions undertaken by the anti-constitutional authorities from Tiraspol are in a flagrant contradiction with the provisions of Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him". The facts below confirm this contradiction. First, the court carrying out the hearing is an anti-constitutional one, having been created by a self-proclaimed and unrecognized State. Second, the detained patriots, during the entire investigation period, were denied the right to defence, were subject to tortures, humiliation and psychological pressure similar only to the ones practised in the fascist prisons, as stated by the authoritative international commissions which visited Moldova.

Guided in its State policy by the norms of international law, the principles of democracy, equality, observance of the legal interests, rights and liberties of the citizens of the country, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova demands an immediate and unconditional release of the detainees Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Petru Godiac, Andrei Ivantoc and Valentin Garbuz. We also consider that their release would be an important step towards the peaceful solution of the problems in the eastern parts of the Republic of Moldova.

We address to the parliaments of all States and the international community an appeal to assist in the release of the political detainees. Their release would constitute another victory of humanism and democracy over the totalitarian and reactionary forces which cynically violate elementary human rights.

Adopted at the plenary meeting of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

Chişinău, May 1993

APPENDIX

[Original: French]

Letter dated 21 May 1993 from the President of the Republic of Moldova addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is deeply concerned about the fate of Ilie Ilascu, Andrei Ivantoc, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa and Petru Godiac, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, who were arrested on 2 June 1992 and who have now been brought to trial by the separatist authorities of the eastern parts of the country. Given the possibility that the death penalty may be imposed for political reasons, their lives are in danger.

I believe that, given the current level of human rights development, the international community cannot allow the aforementioned individuals to be put to death because of their political beliefs and their refusal to accept a separatist and unconstitutional regime.

Given the significant role played until now by the United Nations and other international organizations in regard to the eastern parts of the Republic of Moldova, I beg you, Sir, to intervene swiftly, in the spirit of humanism, in order to save these people's lives.

(Signed) Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova